



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
[www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/708,172	02/12/2004	Horng-Yee Chou	ML-30	2171
23933	7590	09/12/2005	EXAMINER	
STUART T AUVINEN			DINH, PHUONG K	
429 26TH AVENUE				
SANTA CRUZ, CA 95062-5319			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2839	

DATE MAILED: 09/12/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/708,172	CHOU ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Phuong KT Dinh	2839	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 August 2005.

2a) This action is FINAL.                    2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-28 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) 12-22 is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-8, 10, 11, 23 and 25-28 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>02/04</u> .	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

## DETAILED ACTION

### ***Claim Objections***

1. Claims 1-11 are objected to because of the following informalities:
2. Claim 1, line 21, "the socket pin" should be changed to -- the lower socket --, lines 25-26 after "connector" should be -- connector with any conductive member -- or equivalent should be added.
3. Appropriate correction is required.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 1 and 7-8, 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Davis (U. S. Patent 5,766,033).

Regarding claim 1, Davis discloses an extended Universal-serial-Bus (USB) socket comprising: a socket pin substrate 200 made of non-conducting material, substrate having an upper socket-substrate portion 214, and a lower socket-substrate portion forming a cavity between, the cavity being an opening sized to accept a pin substrate with metal contact pins of a standard USB connector plug; a metal cover that partially surrounds the socket pin substrate, wherein an upper gap (between 204, 202) between the upper socket-substrate portion and an upper portion of the metal cover is

sized to accept a metal cover of the standard USB connector plug, the metal cover having an opening to allow the pin substrate of the standard USB connector plug to fit through when being inserted into the cavity and standard metal contact pins, mounted on the upper socket-substrate portion, located to make physical and electrical contact with the metal contact pins of the standard USB connector plug when inserted, extended metal contact pins, mounted substrate, located on the socket pin to avoid making physical and electrical contact to the metal cover of the standard USB connector plug when inserted, whereby extended metal contact pins do not make contact when the standard USB connector plug is inserted. Reference to USB and to some contacts not engagement other contact does not difference over reference. Some of contacts 208, 212 are read standard contacts and other are read as extended contacts. All structural limitations are met and patentability cannot be based on intended manner of use. For example, figure 2 connector could be used with mate having same vacant contact spacer in which case same of contacts 208, 210, 212 would not make contact.

Regarding claims 7- 8, 23, 25-27, Davis discloses an extended Universal-serial-Bus (USB) connector plug 214 for insertion into an extended USB socket or into a standard USB socket, the extended USB connector plug 214 comprising: an extended pin substrate that has an extended length that is longer than or equal to a standard length of the pin substrate of the standard USB connector plug; plug standard metal contact pins \*plug substrate contacts 202, 208) on the pin substrate, wherein when the standard pin substrate of the extended USB connector plug is inserted into a cavity of the standard USB socket, the standard metal contact pins make physical and electrical

contact with plug standard metal Contact pins on a plug pin substrate; plug extended metal contact pins on the extended pin substrate (plug contacts 202, 208), wherein when the extended pin substrate of the extended USB connector plug is inserted into a cavity of the extended USB socket, the plug extended metal contact pins on the extended pin substrate make physical and electrical contact with socket extended metal contact pins on the extended USB socket, whereby the plug extended metal contact pins make contact when the extended USB connector plug 214 is inserted into the extended USB socket, but do not make contact when inserted into the standard USB socket. Note that, reference to USB and to some contacts not engagement other contacts does not define over reference.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 2-6, 10-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Davis.

Regarding claims 2, 10, Davis discloses the claimed invention except for the extended metal contact pins comprise 8 pins; wherein the standard metal contact pins comprise 4 pins. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Davis to provide the extended contact pins comprises

Art Unit: 2839

8 pin and the standard metal contact pins comprise 4 pin so as to provide a necessary number of connections.

Regarding claims 3, 11, Davis discloses the extended metal contact pins comprise a single row of pins or two rows of pins.

Regarding claims 4-6, 28, Davis discloses the claimed invention except for the standard metal contact pins carry standard USB signals during an initialization phase after insertion that includes a switch command sequence to switch to an extended mode; wherein the extended metal contact pins carry extended-mode signals after the switch command sequence is sent over the standard metal contact pins. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use signal as desired to provide necessary circuits.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

8. Claims 9, 24 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Phuong KT Dinh whose telephone number is 571-272-2090. The examiner can normally be reached on 8 -5, 5 days a week.

Art Unit: 2839

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, TC Patel can be reached on 571-272-2098. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Phuong Dinh  
August 26, 2005.

Phuong KT Dinh  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 2839